



Minutes NV COMMUNICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

DATE	February 7, 2006
TIME	1:30 PM
LOCATION	401 South Carson – Carson City 555 East Washington – Las Vegas
RECORDER	Maggie Thorne

ATTENDANCE

Carson City Members	Present	Las Vegas Members	Present
Terry Savage, Co-Chair, DoIT	✓	Jack Staley, Co-Chair , LV Water Dist.	✓
Robert Chisel, NDOT	✓	Dennis Cobb, LV Metro Police	✓
Neil Harris, Elko Cty Sheriff's Office		Anthony DeMeo, Nye County	✓
Mark Foxen, NV Health Division	✓	Rod Massey, Clark County	
Kay Scherer, Dept of CNR	✓	Ronda Hornbeck, Lincoln Cty	✓
Major Bob Wideman, DPS	✓	Louis Amell, City of LV Fire Dept	✓
Adam Garcia, Police, UNR		Greg Marchio, US Secret Service	
Jake Conely, Sparks Fire Dept	✓	Theodore Quasula, LV Paiute Tribe	
Dan Newell, City of Yerington	✓	Bob Fisher, NV Broadcasters Assn.	
James Johns, Reno Police Dept	✓		
Chris Lake, NV Hospital Association	✓		
Dan Holler, Douglas County			
Pete Menicucci, NV Nat'l Guard	✓		

Staff

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mark Blomstrom, DoIT		Glade Myler, Legal Counsel	✓
Maggie Thorne, DoIT	✓		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Terry Savage called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

II ROLL CALL/MINUTES

Maggie Thorne conducted the roll call. Present: 15 members, 0 alternates. Absent: 7.

The minutes from the 01/07/06 were reviewed. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.**

III. NCSC BY-LAWS

The Sub-committee by-laws were reviewed. Dan Newell noted the following correction that needed to be made:

Page 2, Article IV, (a) – delete the words “appoints the Vice Chair and”.

No other changes were made. It was agreed that the By-Laws would be placed on the agenda for next month for approval.

IV. REPORT ON SAFECOM RECOMMENDATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Jack Conely briefed the Committee on the fact the sub-committee has not had the opportunity to meet. He distributed the recommendations to the Committee, but no action has been taken. Terry asked that Jack and Maggie to ahead and schedule a teleconference for the sub-committee so they can get started.

V. GENERAL DISCUSSIN – Grant Process

Terry brought to the NCSC's attention that the grant process has significantly changed. Mark Blomstrom is actively involved with the new process. In the past, entities submitted their own grant requests (to the Feds), now they are all being bundled by the Division of Emergency Management and submitted together as one. Terry indicated that they are going to a "needs based approach" rather than a "population based approach" – which can work in our favor or against us. Terry indicated he believes we have a reasonably good chance to procure some grant funding. The grant application is due March 2, 2006 and NCSC should hear more by May 31 when the process should be completed. We should get federal money to advance our plan, specifically enhance the connectivity and interoperability between the Core-Four Systems.

Jim Johns asked if the grant is identifying the filling in of the known spaces in the existing Core-Four – for instance, NHP has some known areas that they don't have sufficient coverage – have those vacant areas been identified and included in the grant application? Terry said that would be discussed under Legislative activities (next discussion item), but he added he knows connectivity is being address but was not sure if the coverage was being addressed. Jim Johns recommended that Mark Blomstrom should look at a minimum of including in the application a two-tiered plan – one on connectivity and a two on filling gap areas. If the funds are there we should go ahead and identify that instead of waiting for a year and a half for the legislature to take action on it. Glade Myler (legal counsel) suggest to Jim Johns that he speak directly with either Dennis Cobb or Mark Blomstrom since they are both in the process of finalizing (the application) right now and needs to be completed in another week.

Jake Conely asked if it was possible to get a copy of the application. Glade said it needs to be submitted by March 2 so there is little time left, but indicated Jake could call Elaine Fisher or Kamala Carmazia at DEM and they could provide a copy.

Stu Cronan asked who gives final approval of what NCSC is going after. Glade said there is a huge working group (established by DEM) meeting regularly on all emergency issues and this working group is putting it together.

Jim Johns asked who the representative was from Truckee Meadows on the working group. Glade answered with Jim Lopey, Erin Kenison – about 10-12 people from the North that he wouldn't remember who they all were. Glade says he attends all the working group meetings to make sure they aren't having any sidebars going on.

There will be an open meeting of February 27th of the working group and Terry encouraged everyone interested to attend to voice their concerns and/or comments.

VI. GENERAL DISCUSSION – 2007 Legislative Issues

Terry said SB449 provided some funding to essentially build a number of new radio sites to improve coverage around the state and most of that will be done by the end of the summer early fall depending upon weather – however when completed there would still be holes. (Robert Chisel questioned Terry's reference to "being done" and asked for a quote on that...Terry agreed and said "sure say most of it will (be done) and I will define

'most' when we get closer to that point in time"). Terry said regardless of how much gets done; more is needed to do that is currently unfounded in terms of providing additional coverage. Terry asked members to identify those items that should be asked for in the 2007 legislative session, mostly those to operability rather than interoperability – as Robert Chisel has always said "operability should come first" and that is true.

Jim Johns: Complete the build out of the existing sites (Number 1)

Susan Parker (City of Reno): In addition to radio issues, we (Nevada) also need to think about a statewide-enhanced 911 system. If we can't get the calls we can't dispatch safety. (Number 2). Glade commented that the working group for the grant process has identified the 911 problems.

Jim Johns: Number 2a should be appropriate staffing for emergency management situations because the fact of the matter is during any of our known history emergency situations one of the primary issues is getting sufficient staff to provide the service – if you don't have dispatchers it doesn't matter how many channels you have because you are talking to thin air.

Jim Johns: Number 3 should be support for the 911 wireless operability – or more accurately Phase Two of E911.

Terry Savage: We've identified the Core-Four system as the hub of the State's communication system and one thought would be to get funding from the Legislature to provide to the rurals the option to convert to a 700-800MHz system. Jim Johns thought that would be a good Number 4 on the list to give rurals who want to the access to the Core-Four, in actuality this might be the second or third on the list.

Jim Johns: The next step for the Core-Four, get the equipment be stockpiled in case of a response to a particular area in the State – funding for those radios whether it be a couple 100 statewide or 4 or 500.

(Unknown speaker): In conjunction with the enhanced 911, we might want to add the voice over IP situation which is becoming a bigger and bigger deal and that will take money.

Pete Menicucci: Indicated that CA is interested in partnering with Nevada on a system in order to share bandwidth and hubs. Their system is analog – 56K dial-up and a couple of phone lines – but Nevada would need to investigate further on this.

Tony DeMeo: I'm working on interoperability between Nye County and Clark County through the SNAAC system and there are hurdles. We are finding out that other communities are going to have a hard time connecting to the 800 one way or another – we might want to look at ways for those communities to connect – just an idea. Terry mentioned that has been addressed and makes a lot of sense.

Dennis Cobb: We should have a conversation on some sort of regional supernode that is mobile – something that can be hauled or delivered that doesn't require 800 or whatever – a configuration that allows linking out by satellite, linking into the nearest Core-Four connection. I don't think in a State our size we will ever have the robust fat connections we need every time every day, but maybe something portable that can be deployed in a day or two as necessary for floods etc and maybe we can look at existing resources (radios) that might be sold in a fire sale.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None Presented.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. Next meeting date: March 7, 2006

Minutes are posted on the website at: <http://ncsc.nv.gov/>
Questions Call: 775-684-5859 or email maggiet@doit.state.nv.us

Draft minutes submitted by Maggie Thorne, 02/10/06

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____